



Community & Residential Services Authority

MEMBERS PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Michele Carmichael	Alan Dietrich	Susan Fonfa	Lisa Hampton
Seth Harkins	Julianna Harms	Merlin Lehman	Dee Ann Ryan
Gary Seelbach	Randy Staton	Julie Stremlau	

Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Robert Bloom	Kathy Briseno	Maureen Haugh-Stover	Toni Hoy
Brittany Stern			

MEMBERS ABSENT

William Delgado	David Elder
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STAFF PRESENT

Springfield Location:

Lynn Lowder	Mindy Miller	John Schornagel
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Chicago Location: (attending by Video conference)

Robert Watts

LIAISONS PRESENT

Kevin Rubenstein, IAASE

GUESTS

Debbie McCarrell, HFS

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Seelbach called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Members, CRSA staff and guests introduced themselves.

II. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 19, 2015 AUTHORITY MINUTES

The Authority reviewed the minutes of the February 19, 2015 Authority meeting.

MOTION: *Kathy Briseno moved and Seth Harkins seconded that the minutes of the February 19, 2015 Authority meeting be approved with minor amendments. The motion carried unanimously.*

III. STAFF REPORT

Director Schornagel referenced the following informational handouts:

- **Staff Activity Report** for February and March, 2015. Director Schornagel commented that in February, three of the six cases at Staff Review level were Custody Relinquishment Risk (CR) cases. In March, one of those CR Risk cases relinquished-was re-homed to extended family. At the end of March two of the five cases at Staff Review level were CR Risk cases which were subsequently referred to the DHM Emergency Custody Relinquishment Pilot Program on March 6, 2015. He added that several of the other cases at Staff Review level are kids needing residential treatment who might qualify for residential services through multiple funders and whose parents are trying to get eligibility and funding for residential treatment. He concluded that one youngster is waiting for a DCFS Director Waiver to materialize as an alternative to adult incarceration. He announced that staff will be pulling together board members together in Technical Assistance Conference teams in the coming weeks to address several of these cases.
- **Copy of an Effective Strategies Checklist** published by the National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health. Director Schornagel commented that the paper pertains to children and youth who have intellectual disabilities or developmental disorders who are at elevated risk for co-occurring psychiatric or behavioral problems. He added that kids who fit this dually-diagnosed profile account for a growing share of referrals to CRSA including all three of the kids that have required CRSA Dispute Resolution activity this fiscal year, as well as, three of the five cases currently at Staff Review level. He thanked Lisa Betz at DMH for sharing this document with CRSA.

Director Schornagel reminded the Board that in March staff reached out to board members by email with instructions and required documents to take 2015 Ethics Training; specific to members of Illinois Boards and Commissions. He added that he was pleased to report that more than half of members of the board have already confirmed having completed training and he urged those who have not to please take a few moments to complete the Ethics Training and confirm that with Mindy.

IV. AGENCY REPORTS

Debbie McCarrell from HFS updated the Authority regarding current multiple agency activities and initiatives which are impacting child and adolescent service system planning and which are surfacing in human services legislation this spring. She informed the Authority that the N.B. v. Hamos lawsuit is within months of a long-anticipated agreement through a consent decree. Ms. McCarrell stated that the N.B. lawsuit came about as a result the persistent lack of community-based services for children with behavioral health needs particularly in rural pockets of Illinois and she opined that the focus of the resultant consent decree will be to address that issue. However she cautioned the Authority to not interpret an N.B consent decree as a quick fix to the issues of the lawsuit but rather as the beginning of a five to seven year process of activities

designed to foster Illinois' gradually coming into compliance with federal E.P.S.D.T. requirements. Ms. McCarrell commented that as a result of the N.B. consent decree Illinois may develop Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTFs) in the future, but gradually and in balance with the deliberate expansion the continuum of community-based services. She added that Illinois currently lacks rules for the development of PRTFs. Susan Fonfa commented that implementation of an N.B. Consent Decree will not be cost neutral and that full resolution of N.B. issues will require additional funding over time.

As a related issue, Ms. McCarrell informed the Authority that a Multi-Agency Clinical Staffing (MACS) process has been convened and includes HFS, DHS, DCFS and DJJ. She explained that the sole function of the MACS process is to oversee service provision to children placed into PRTF placements under the N.B. lawsuit. She added that cases going to the MACS process for review will also be receiving HFS-sponsored Mobile Care Coordination (MCC) services.

Ms. McCarrell commented that while Governor's Office of Health Innovation and Transformation (GOHIT) recommendations are alive and well. She added that while GOHIT recommendations may not be adopted immediately or fully that they are being seriously considered for implementation in current policy and legislative circles and are likely to be implemented gradually over time. As examples she commented that reshaping the Illinois C&A service system under System of Care principles and the recommendation for formation of a Children's Behavioral Health Cabinet both have strong appeal and are likely to be embraced/implemented in the near-term. She also commented that Illinois, like other states, is considering establishing a university affiliated Center for Excellence and may undertake fiscal-mapping to track how and where human services resources are deployed in Illinois. She commented that currently, Illinois spends 150 million dollars a year for inpatient child and adolescent psychiatric hospitalizations. She added that this amount is one third of the money spent nationally for inpatient C&A psychiatric hospitalizations and that this is not an efficient or sustainable practice. Director Schornagel reiterated that the GOHIT planning process was very well organized, included broad-based stakeholder participation and produced an integrated and concise blueprint of C&A system changes in a less than years' time. He added that many of the systemic recommendations made by RSA and CRSA over the years are well represented in the GOHIT recommendations.

Michele Carmichael from ISBE reported that ISBE is not a party to the N.B. lawsuit is not a participant in the MACS Process nor is a signatory to the proposed intergovernmental agreement for Emergency DMH Custody Relinquishment Pilot Program currently being considered to satisfy the mandates of P.A. 98-0808, The Custody Relinquishment Prevention Act. She reported that Elizabeth Hanselman, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education has left ISBE and that her position is currently unfilled.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Proposed Amendments to CRSA Statute

Chairperson Seelbach informed the Authority that the Executive Committee has recommended that the CRSA not propose new legislation during this legislative session given the prevailing planning and budgetary uncertainties and further recommends that the Authority remain in an analytic posture as the service system adapts to recent leadership changes, budgetary constraints and other systemic changes driven by litigation and legislation.

The Authority reviewed and discussed drafts of proposed CRSA statute amendments including; proposed membership changes to the CRSA and proposed changes to the CRSA powers and duties. Director Schornagel commented that both are currently offered for discussion purposes only and are really necessary for integrating CRSA's future structure and functions into the C&A service system as the system evolves. Among the proposed changes to the CRSA's Powers and Duties is an amendment to grant the Authority "Binding Authority" in CRSA dispute cases which has proposed on numerous occasions through the history of the Authority. The amendments also propose the removal of the CRSA duty to recommend a statewide master plan for redesign of the Illinois Child and Adolescent Services system. Several members expressed concern about the diminished role of CRSA in statewide system redesign. Director Schornagel explained that if the GOHIT recommendation for Illinois to form a Children's Behavioral Health Cabinet under the leadership of the Governor's office is implemented, that the legislative objective underlying CRSA service system planning duty will have been fully accomplished.

B. None

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. DMH Emergency Custody Relinquishment Pilot Program

Director Schornagel reported to the Authority that in March 2015, CRSA has referred 15 custody relinquishment risk cases to DHM for consideration for potential service eligibility under a proposed DMH Emergency Custody Relinquishment Pilot Program. He reported that to date none of those cases have been served a through the proposed Pilot program but that CRSA staff continue to help the families referred to explore services through existing service silos. Ms. McCarrell clarified that the Emergency DMH Custody Relinquishment Pilot Program is still in the formative stage and represents an initial multiple-agency response to the challenges of PA: 98-0808, the Custody Relinquishment Prevention Act, which is due to be implemented on July 1, 2015. She commented that the implementation of the Emergency DMH Custody Relinquishment Pilot Program is contingent on the signing of an intergovernmental agreement between

DCFS, DHS and HFS.

B. Appointment of a Nominating Committee

Chairperson Seelbach announced the appointment of CRSA Nominating Committee for FY 16. Chairperson Seelbach announced he will serve as Chairperson of the Committee and that he has appointed Kathy Briseno, Alan Dietrich, and Dee Ann Ryan to serve on the Committee as well. He informed the Authority that the Nominating Committee will be meeting in May to propose a slate of CRSA Officers for FY 16.

VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chairperson Seelbach indicated that all but a few of the issues discussed at the April Executive Committee has already been covered in earlier agenda items with the exception of the following. Director Schornagel reported to the Authority that Public Act: 99-0001 has been signed into law and reduced the CRSA FY 15 Appropriation by \$13,300.00 or by 2.25% to \$579,000.00. He reported that this reduction in expenditure should not impede the full operations of the Authority for the remainder of FY 15. Chairperson Seelbach also reviewed the progress of HB: 4096 (the ICG bill) and SB: 850 (the Voluntary Placement Agreement Bill), both of which are of importance to the children and families served by the CRSA and which the Authority has been tracking.

VIII. OPEN DIALOGUE

Members of the Authority thanked Ms. McCarrell for her thorough assessment and overview of current C&A system trends and related member agency activities and initiatives. Dee Ann Ryan expressed ongoing concern about the projected slow pace of changes envisioned under the anticipated N.B. consent decree. She commented on the persistent plight of children families in Vermilion County and the ongoing problems of workforce development and lack of local providers, neither of which are likely to change in her opinion without sweeping and immediate state level policy and resource commitments that should be the focus of the N.B lawsuit.

The Authority also discussed the increasingly visible Custody Relinquishment Risk population documented by CRSA's caseload this year and an apparent lack of a transparent and integrated response to the Custody Relinquishment Prevention Act: P.A. 98-0808 by member agencies. Toni Hoy expressed her ongoing support for Senate Bill 850, (the DCFS Voluntary Placement Agreement Bill) which was created as a companion bill to P.A. 98-0808. She expressed her concern that that she fears may have stalled in the legislative process due to state agency opposition to the bill. Ms. McCarrell opined that DCFS has concerns about the cost of implementing the bill that could not be recaptured through federal Title IV-E funds. Director Schornagel expressed misgivings about the passage of S.B. 850 as written, in light of the recent Chicago Tribune exposé illuminating DCFS' apparent lack of acute care and sub-acute care placement resources/capacity and its seeming inability implement the bill responsibly if it were

passed. He also commented that House Bill 4096, the ICG Bill, if passed in its current form contains a competing emergency ICG placement provision which would provide 90 days of interim placement relief for kids and families trapped in the lock-out/custody relinquishment cycle. He added that HB 4096 contains a provision that would also form a Children's Behavioral Health Cabinet and would move the ICG program to HFS. Michele Carmichael sought reassurance about CRSAs staff's commitment to Least Restrictive Environment through the schools and more globally about CRSA's commitment promoting service provisions in the child's home, school and community. Director Schornagel commented that CRSA serves as a safety net for the service system and as such does not require that kid's fail their way up the continuum of care as precondition to accessing appropriate educational or human services. He referenced CRSA's current Custody Relinquishment Risk population as an example of parents who contact CRSA for services while in-crisis; who are desperate and who have already exhausted many local resources by the time they contact the Authority for initial assistance. Dee Ann Ryan suggested that CRSA form a Committee of the board to take an in-depth look at Custody Relinquishment Risk cases: to do analysis of this population as a whole, identifying demographics service histories, and systemic characteristics, as well as, individual cases, to accelerate multiple-agency service provision to the families at risk. Director Schornagel commented that this could be accomplished through appointment of an Ad Hoc Committee. Bob Bloom suggested that an in-depth review of individual CRSA Custody Relinquishment Risk cases might also serve to raise the Authority's awareness of the individual and systemic circumstances/behaviors that are fueling the current Custody Relinquishment epidemic. Seth Harkins suggested the possibility for hiring a research professional to do archival research of CRSA cases as a possible means to better understand the current Custody Relinquishment population but possibly, more broadly, to better understand the needs of youth and families needing CRSA services and to generate outcome data as result of CRSA receiving services.

MOTION: *Seth Harkins moved and Merlin Lehman seconded that the Authority explore the hiring of a researcher(s) for the explicit purposes of conducting program evaluation. This research should be archival in nature and focused on the individual and systemic circumstances that brought children to CRSA for technical assistance and dispute resolution, should explore the outcomes experienced by families served by CRSA and should make recommendations that emerge from the research. The motion carried unanimously.*

Bob Bloom cautioned the Authority to be judicious in clearly defining the end goals of the research: making recommendations that are intended to be as respectful, constructive and responsible. He noted "shoot the messenger" phenomenon that frequently accompanies systemic evaluations that are critical of existing practices among local and state level providers.

IX. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

X. COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Schornagel informed the Authority that Alan Dietrich of DMH announced that he is going to retire at the end of May, 2015. Director Schornagel commented that Alan has been a CRSA Board member representing DHS/DMH for nearly sixteen years, initially as an Alternate Designee from DMH beginning FY 00 and then as the sole DHS designee from DMH. Director Schornagel added that during that time, Alan has distinguished himself on the Authority through his continuous membership on the Executive Committee, as a frequent volunteer/participant in CRSA Ad Hoc Committees, and through his service as a CRSA Officer for six of his fifteen years at CRSA: as Secretary to the Authority in FY 06, FY 07, FY 11 and FY 12 and as CRSA Chairperson during FY 10 and FY 11. The latter has earned Alan the status of being an Ex-Officio CRSA Board member for life. Director Schornagel commented that Alan is only the second Agency Designee in the 30 history of the Authority to have served in the role of CRSA Chairperson.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Gary Seelbach moved and Randy Staton seconded that the meeting be adjourned at 11:37 a.m. The motion carried unanimously.